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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015

Background

1. At its first session (Geneva, 18-19 November 2014), the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014-2015 and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee.

2. At its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19-21 November 2014), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015, and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for approval by the Executive Committee.

Draft decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the work plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) establishes the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy which is mandated to carry out concrete result-oriented activities that, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative of the Secretary-General, help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will focus on a) regulatory and policy dialogue and b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete activities

4. The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy propose to undertake the following activities:

A. Identification of the state of development of renewable energy sources in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of renewable energy sources to establish a baseline for further activities. This work will be conducted together with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of renewable energy in the ECE region; and

(b) Within the context of the review and if needed, conduct a survey of ECE member States on the national situation, plans, framework conditions, and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

(a) Literature review at regional level: Preliminary report based on existing data by November 2014; Substantive report on the Status of Renewable Energy in the Region with key partners by November 2015 subject to resource availability;

(b) Presentation of the results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: 2014-2015 Sessions.

B. Identification and support to those communities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region that have no access to energy

Description: Upon request, the Group of Experts will assist member States to identify those communities that have no access to energy. The Group will further suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. The private sector could be asked to help achieve that objective.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Map those communities in the ECE region that have no access to energy;

(b) Initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on supplying electricity and heat from renewable energy sources to those communities. Identify and contact stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from the private sector and academia;

(c) Draw up an Action plan "Access to Energy for All" in the ECE Region in collaboration with the other groups of experts and the Committee and start implementation with the help of the private sector, academia, civil society, other international actors, so as to accelerate energy access for those communities ; and

(d) Identify, by means of an interactive electronic exchange with these stakeholders, a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them which may support the use and installation of renewable energy technologies in areas of the ECE region where there is no access to energy.

Deliverables:

(a) A map of communities without access to energy;

(b) Menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them;

(c) An Action plan for access to energy for all in the ECE Region.

Timeline:

(a) Preliminary overview of communities with no access to energy: November 2014; on-going mapping of communities from November 2015;

(b) Menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them which may support the use and installation of renewable energy in areas without access to energy: First draft based on existing work of other international actors: February 2015;

(c) Further development and implementation of the Action plan: on-going.

C. Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy.

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between member States, relevant international organizations and other stakeholders on how to significantly increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This work will be

undertaken collaboratively with other organisations including IRENA, IEA, and the World Bank Group.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Identify and contact main stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and/to work with them (through an interactive electronic exchange) to/and develop a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them, which may contribute to significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy;

(b) Produce a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them, also indicating the countries already implementing them so as to facilitate exchange of experiences between all experts in the region; and

(c) Based on the above, assist countries at their request with the development of national renewable energy action plans that contribute to a significant improvement in the uptake of renewable energy and an energy transition in the ECE Member States. This work will be carried out in cooperation with other actors such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(d) Identify work on renewable energy and efficiency standards and linking labelling that is on-going in other organisations (such as the Energy Saving Certificate (ESC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), etc.) and develop suggestions on establishing ECE standards for renewable energy, in cooperation with international standardization organizations.

Deliverables:

(a) A menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them on how to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy and countries implementing them;

(b) Support the development of national renewable energy action plans upon request;

(c) Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for renewable energies in the long-term.

Timeline:

(a) Present first version of the menu with key action areas at the first formal meeting of the Group of Experts: March 2015;

(b) Improve/complete the menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them: from February 2015 onwards;

(c) On that basis provide support for renewable energy action plans upon request: from February 2015 onwards;

(d) Preliminary suggestions for further work on best practices and on possible ways to develop standards: November 2015.

D. Further activities

5. Member States may further decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy within agreed mandates, including in cooperation with IRENA, IEA, United Nations Industrial Development Organization , the World Bank Group, the International Sustainable Energy Organization and other relevant actors, conduct an analysis of the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technologies in the region, relative to energy production from fossil fuels;

6. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to and implemented in cooperation and coordination with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-Food and Agricultural Organization, Forestry and Timber subprogramme, the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme and the Statistics subprogramme.